

REMARKS

The office action mailed January 27, 2003 has been reviewed and carefully considered.

Claims 1-5 have been amended and new claims 6-9 have been added. Claims 1-9 remain pending in this application.

Claims 1 - 5 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by Jung et al. (USP 6,362,857). Applicant has amended claims 1-5 and has submitted new claims 6-9.

The patent to Jung et al. discloses a video signal distribution device with storage for assignment prescription data. The Examiner has stated regarding claims 1 and 2, "Jung shows an operating module (personal computer 4 which inherently includes a keyboard, 23), a control module (personal computer 4, which inherently includes a CPU 21), a first interface (6), a control panel (13), a second interface (6)....." Applicant respectfully disagrees with the Examiner's application of Jung et al to applicant's claimed invention.

Amended claim 1 and new claim 6 clearly recite a **modular** control panel wherein the operating module and the control module are separate and distinct from each other, hence the modular aspect of the same. The single computer 4 of Jung et al. does not disclose and/or anticipate the modular aspect of applicant's claimed invention. As disclosed in the application, the dimensions of the housings of the respective modules can be adapted according to the applications involved, thereby providing increased flexibility in the implementation of a video apparatus control system. In view of their dependency on claim 1, claims 2-5 are believed to be in condition for allowance.

Furthermore, with respect to new independent claim 6, the operating module includes an identification code for enabling the control module to identify the structure of the connection operating module.

In view of the foregoing, applicant requests reconsideration and withdrawal of this rejection. Early allowance on the merits is respectfully requested.

It is believed that no additional fees or charges are currently due. However, in the event that any additional fees or charges are required at this time in connection with the application, they may be charged to applicant's Deposit Account No. 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,
Roman Boll.

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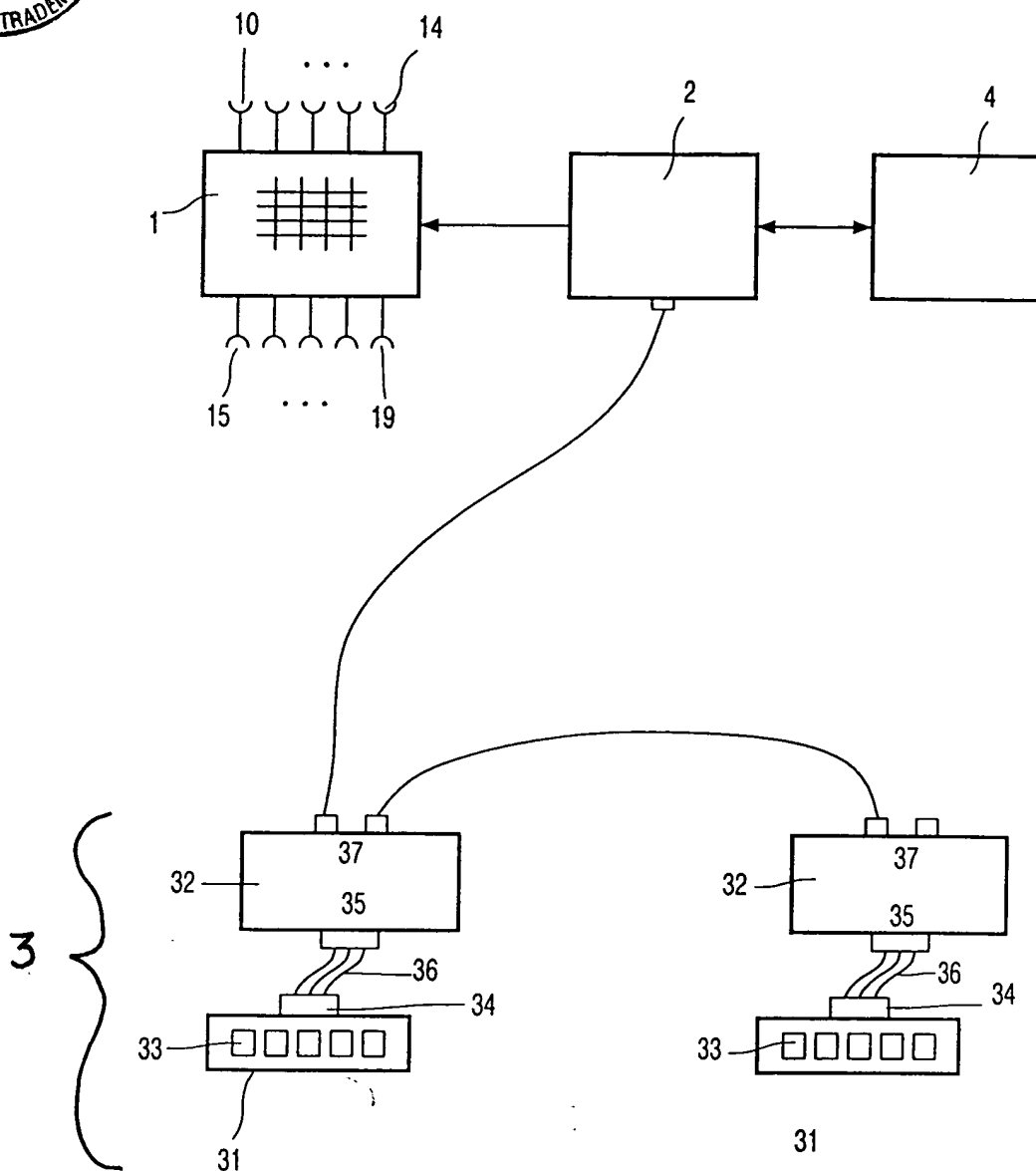


FIG. 1